Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00152 071330Z ACTION NEA-10

P 071212Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4353
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0152

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, IS, US SUBJECT: AMOS EIRAN ON IRAELI-U.S. RELATIONS

- 1. THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS BULLETIN JANUARY 6 REGARDING A SPEECH MADE BY AMOS EIRAN, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRIME MINISTR RABIN'S OFFICE, AT A MEETING OF THE TEL AVIV ROTARY CLUB ON THAT DATE. AS THE DEPRTMENT IS AWARE, EIRAN IS CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND SPEAKS FROM HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RABIN'S VIEWS. HE HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A SHORT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT/ "WE TRUST THAT THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL HOLD TOP-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH ISRAEL BEFORE DETERMINING ITS POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST," THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MR. AMOS EIRAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) AT A MEETING OF THE TEL AVIV ROTARY CLUB.
- 3. MR. EIRAN NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT SOME SIX BILLION DOLLARS--OR ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF U.S. AID GRANTED ISRAEL SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE--WERE RECEIVED DURING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00152 071330Z

THE PAST THREE YEARS.

4. ISRAEL'S PRESENT REQUEST, AN AMOUNT OF OVER TWO BILLION DOLLARS, INTENDED FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 1977/78, EQUALS THE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF THE VIETNAM WAR DURING THE LAST YEAR OF THE FIGHTING THERE. WHILE THAT EXPENDITURE COVERED THE COST OF A WAR, THIS AID SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN INVESTMENT IN

PACIFICATION, THROUGH MAINTAINING THE BALANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS.

- 5. ISRAEL, HE SAID, IS TURNING TO THE U.S. CONVINCED OF THE FULL JUSTIFICATION OF ITS REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC AID. BEFORE ISRAEL REQUESTS OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, ITS OWN CITIZENS ARE OBLIGED TO BEAR A CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL BURDEN.
- 6. IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE, AID MR. EIRAN, ISRAEL'S STAND MUST SUPPORT THOSE OF ITS FRIENDS WHO ARE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT ISRAEL.
- 7. ITS POSITIONS MUST BE OPEN TO DIALOGUE, TO MEETINGS AND DISCUSSION, WITH A VIEW OF REACHING AGREEMENT. THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO THE PLO, BUT TO SOVEREIGN NATIONS.
- 8. IN JANUARY 1976, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER RABIN ON THE FORMULA OF TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF WAR, AND ISRAEL'S READINESS FOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR A TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF WAR.

9.THE U.S. UNDERTOOK TO REPLY TO ISRAEL ON THIS SUBJECT AFTER CONTACTING ARAB COUNTRIES. BUT AS A RESULT OF THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON AND THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTINS, THIS PROCESS WAS DELAYED, AD WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A CLEAR REPLY ON THIS SUBJECT.

10. ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENDEAVOR FOR OVERALL AGREEMENT OR PARTIAL AGREEMENTS. FIRST PRIORITY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00152 071330Z

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AN OVERALL AGREEMENT VIA THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT ISRAEL IS PREPRED TO CONCLUDE ADDITIONAL INTERIM AGREEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE ACHIEVED IN THE PAST, WHICH WILL ENSURE CONTINUED QUIET AND KEEP ALIVE THE HOPE FOR SINIFICANT CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE ARAB STATES. THE CENTRAL PROBLEM IS NOT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, BUT THE ARAB COUNTRIES' RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGN EXISTENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS IS WHY THE QUESTION OF PEACE AND ITS NATURE MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITY EVEN OVER THE PROBLEM OF AREAS AND BORDERS. IT IS OBVIOUS IN ANY CASE THAT DEFENSIBLE BORDERS HAVE TO BE ENSURED.

1. IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL MAINTAIN THE SAME ATTITUDE OF FRIENDSHIP, THE SAME POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT AS IN THE PAST, BUT WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT CONTINUOUS HARD WORK IS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THAT LEVEL OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

12. REVIEWING THE UNITED STATES' POSITION IN THE WORLD IN

GENERAL, AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN PARTICULAR, MR. EIRAN NOTED THAT THERE IS NO SIGN AS YET OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE U.S., WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES REMAIN HIGH. THIS IS ONE OF THE FACTORS AFFECTING THE CONTINUANCE OF MASSIVE FOREIGN AID. U.S. EXPENDITURE ON ENERGY HAS RISEN STEEPLY, AND THOUGH BETTER OFF THAN EUROPE AND JAPAN, ITS DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTEDOIL HAS GROWN. THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING AN ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK WITH THE OIL COUNTRIES, IN ORDER TO ENSURE A RECYCLING OF OIL MONEY AND SOME INFLUENCE ON OIL PRICE LEVELS. END TEXT DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV00152
Document Source: DOCUMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770007-0015 Format: TEL

From: TEL AVIV Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770169/aaaaciwr.tel

Line Count: 127 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 277c30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Retention: 0 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 22-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3638984 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: AMOS EIRAN ON IRAELI-U.S. RELATIONS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, (EIRAN, AMOS)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/277c30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009